



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, August 12, 2004

### **BROOKS OPENS NEW LODGE AT OATKA CREEK PARK**

#### ***Joint Effort with Town of Wheatland Benefits Community***

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**, along with County Legislator **Jeff Adair** and Wheatland Town Supervisor **Linda Dobson**, officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Oatka Lodge, located in Oatka Creek Park. The lodge parking lot and access road were also refurbished, as part of this project.

*"This is an exciting example of what can be accomplished when Monroe County and local governments collaborate – we can get the job done," said Brooks. "During difficult fiscal times, it is critical that municipalities work together to share resources on projects with identified community need."*

The Oatka Lodge project began in the Fall of 2003 as a collaborative effort of the Monroe County Parks Department and the Town of Wheatland. The Parks Department coordinated the refurbishing of the lodge - including new restroom facilities and holding tank, improvements to the existing fireplace, fresh paint, new doors and park signage. In addition, Monroe County supplied the stone used for roadwork. The Town of Wheatland worked on improvements to the access road and the parking lot.

Oatka Creek Park is a County Park that consists of mostly underdeveloped parkland, located in the southern portion of Monroe County. Many residents of our community enjoy fly-fishing in the rich waters of Oatka Creek. In 1991, the lodge, which is over 25 years old, was closed due to budget concerns and has remained vacant. Through this joint effort, Oatka Lodge is now open for the public to enjoy, once again.

*"The Oatka Lodge opening is a win-win situation for all involved – but, clearly, our community is the big winner," said Brooks. "Monroe County residents now have yet another beautiful resource available to enjoy in our vast County Parks system."*

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